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ST. LOUIS
Globe Democrat
271,645 D

JUL 2 1982

LPC
7/27/82

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



412261

Metro-East hazardous dumps not targeted for aid

By JOE SALVIA
Globe-Democrat Staff Writer

AST ST. LOUIS — Five of the 32 sites most hazardous waste sites in Illinois are in Metro-East, according to a list furnished to the government by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. But five sites are not among the seven agency is targeting for federal help assistance.

selected as the list of hazardous wastes:

- Dead Creek in Calumet, a 45-year-old asbestos and chemical dump that leers periodically.

- The Monsanto Chemical Co. coal area in Saugatuck, where acidic wastes are leaking into the Mississippi River.

- The Southern Railroad yards in St. Louis, where drums of paint

wastes are stored on the banks of the Mississippi.

— The Keel Landfill in Collingsville, where barrels of solvents have been dumped in a junkyard.

— The Lameer Landfill in Paducah City, where illegal dumping of chemical barrels has contaminated surface groundwater.

ALL FIVE OF the Metro-East sites had previously been identified as potentially hazardous waste sites by the IEPA.

The list was drawn up at the request of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which recently asked states to name their worst waste dumps in order to qualify for federal aid, according to the Chicago Tribune, which published the list in its Monday editions.

None of the Metro-East dumps was ranked among the seven most

hazardous sites, which the IEPA had appointed for a possible share in the \$1.6 billion "superfund" for emergency cleanup.

Heading the list of the state's hazardous dumps was Waubaygan Harbor, where the Outboard Marine Corp. plant alone has reportedly dumped an estimated 800,000 pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) since 1971.

The federal EPA has named Waubaygan Harbor as having the highest concentration of industrial poisons in the Great Lakes area, and estimates that the toxic buildup in the harbor could cost as much as \$64 million to clean up.

IN ADDITION to Waubaygan Harbor, already on the federal list, the IEPA identified six other sites which might qualify for the federal cleanup money. They are:

— The Cuban Brothers abandoned drum-recycling operation in Kankakee County, where chemicals leaching into ground water have contaminated two nearby wells.

— The A & P Materials site in Grayslake, where waste oil lagoons containing PCBs have contaminated the Fox River.

— The A & P Materials site in Olney, where waste oil lagoons have contaminated both the Fox and Sugar rivers.

— The Wisconsin Sand and Gravel Company site in Lake County, which has been used as a storage and treatment facility more than 40 years.

— The Calumet Container Corp. drum-recycling plant between Chicago and Hammond, Ind., where federal officials say hazardous chemicals have been poured into the soil.

— The Acme Solvents Co. drum-

recycling operation in Morrissey, which has been blamed for contamination of nearby wells.

WAUBAYGAN HARBOR was among the 115 sites named to participate in the federal superfund cleanup while the program was first announced in October 1981.

The federal EPA announced Friday that the Grayslake, Winona, and Morrissey sites have been included in a list of 40 sites to be added to the original 115.

Robert Hartman, an EPA spokesman in Chicago, said a final list of the 400 sites to be included in the reported program will be announced "late this year or early next year."

Hartman declined to speculate whether the Cuban Brothers site in Kankakee County, the A & P site in Olney and the Calumet Container Corp. site near Chicago would be included in the final superfund list.

Other sites on the IEPA list of hazardous dumps were the Belvidere Landfill No. 1, west of Chicago; Koppers Co. site in Carbondale and Galesburg; the Staengl Landfill in Galesburg; the Electrical Utilities Co. Plant in LaSalle; Brockway Landfill No. 1 in Ottawa; the Taylorville Landfill in Taylorville; the Jones Mayville plant in Waukegan; the abandoned Trans-Cast warehouse in Wheeling; the Hopkins Chemical Co. plant in Atlanta; the Poxon Landfill Corp. of Chicago; the abandoned Laramore Processing factory in Ottawa; the New Jersey Zinc plant in Dolton; the McWorter Chemical Co. site in Carpenterville; the Modern Plating Co. plant in Prospect; The Inspiration Mine of Canada dump in Galesburg; the Velsicol Chemical Corp. plant in Marshall; the Johnson landfill near Byron; and the Peoples Avenue landfill in Rockford.

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21,817 D

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7/20/82
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East Peoria seeks Morton's help

MORTON — Morton's neighbor to the west asked for help Monday night.

Village trustees heard a request from East Peoria seeking moral and financial backing in the battle to keep Waste Management, Inc., from dumping industrial waste at the Farmdale Landfill and the proposed addition to it.

Jay Thompson, city administrator, said East Peoria has obtained six expert

witnesses to testify in its defense against plans for industrial waste dumping. He estimated the legal fight will cost approximately \$25,000.

"We are soliciting your support by resolution in the city's effort not to deny the landfill, but only (deny) any disposal of industrial waste," Thompson said.

The main concern of the city is that waste will contaminate the aquifer

beneath the site which supplies water to East Peoria, Morton, Washington and many other areas, Thompson said.

Although the board did not take action Monday, Mayor Robert Hertenstein indicated that the board is concerned and likely will offer assistance.

A proposed resolution for village consideration was given to Village Attorney Tom Davies for study.

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